Six per cent growth rate in domestic product for the Five Year Plan

492. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has settled for a growth rate of six per cent in Gross Domestic Product for the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the precise perspective in regard to Seventh Five Year Plan achievements and possible resource mobilisation during next Five Year Plan; and

(c) what are the targets of Eighth Five Year Plan in respect of various areas of economic and social growth including social and family welfare and health and education programmes?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission has settled for a growth rate of 6 per cent in Gross Domestic Product for Eighth Five Year Plan after taking into account a view on savings and availability of resources and efficiency in the use of resources. The exercise on Approach Paper is underway which will bring out the perspective on resources mobilisation during the next Five Year Plan in the light of the performance during the Seventh Plan. The Approach Paper will also indicate the main points of thrust in respect of various areas of economic and social growth.

Radiation risks in atomic Power Plant

493. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the risks of atomic radiation from different atomic power plants being set up at Narora, Kaiga, Kota and Kakarapara have been recently reassessed: and

(b) if so, with what results and what steps have been taken to ensure the absolute safety against radiation fall out from these power plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) Radiation risks for atomic power plants at Narora, Kaiga, Kota and Kakrapar have been assessed both before the selection of sites as well as during the detailed design and construction stage.

(b) To ensure absolute safety against radiation from these power plants, the following measures have been taken:

(i) 100 per cent double containment.

(ii) Multiple barriers to contain release of radioactivity into the environment.

(iii) Zero discharge concept of radioactive waste management that is generated during operation of the plants.

(iv) Observance of the stipulation given by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board with respect to release of radioactivity which is in conformity with the guidelines of the International Commission for Radiological Protection.

(v) Setting up of an Environmental Safety Laboratory in advance of the setting up of the Nuclear Power Plant to generate background data on radioactivity in the neighbourhood of the Plant and thereafter monitor releases of radioactivity throughout the lifetime of the Plant.

Devastation of floods in Assam

494. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what positive steps Government propose to take to check devastation of floods in Assam by the river Brahmaputra: